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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 40
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 23 December 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, and further to our frequent earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on Lebanon, I have the honour to inform you of the incidence of another bloody attack committed by Israel against Lebanese civilians in a region which is at a distance of scores of kilometres from its borders and the regions it occupies.

At 1440 hours on 22 December 1998 Israeli military aircraft fired missiles on the area around the village of Janta, to the east of Baalbek, targeting the house of Lebanese national Muhammad Uthman. The house was destroyed and his wife and six of his children were killed and burnt beyond recognition.

This fresh carnage is yet another in the series of massacres perpetrated by Israel, which include those committed at Qana (18 April 1996), Nabatiyah (18 April 1996), Mansuri (14 April 1996) and Suhmur (12 April 1996), all of which created a furore in the media at the time. On this occasion, Israeli officials have yet again announced that the crime was committed unintentionally. However, it is in fact the tragic outcome of the policy of aggression and terrorism that Israel has pursued against Lebanon and its citizens for many years.

The apology offered by Israel on this occasion, like those which preceded it on other occasions, is rejected. It will not bring the dead back to life or restore to their loved ones those who were murdered. We present these tragic facts to the international community, as represented by the Security Council, in the enduring hope that it will take measures to repel the aggressor and halt the ongoing Israeli attacks that pose a threat to peace and security in the region and in the world.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/53/769

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 December 1998

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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 141
Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti

Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains the financial performance report of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH), the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti (UNTMIH) and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH) for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 51/15 B of 13 June 1997 and 52/246 of 26 June 1998, appropriated a total amount of $28,318,900 gross ($27,080,900 net) for the maintenance of UNSMIH, UNTMIH and MIPONUH for the same period.

Expenditures for the period totalled $27,412,100 gross ($26,215,700 net) excluding budgeted voluntary contributions in kind of $1,999,900, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $906,800 gross ($865,200 net). The unencumbered balance resulted mainly from lower staff costs, the availability of vehicle spare parts from cannibalized vehicles, and reduced requirements for medical treatment and services.

The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNSMIH, UNTMIH and MIPONUH is shown in paragraph 14 of the present report.

98-40372 (E) 290199

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I. Introduction

1. The mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH) ended on 31 July 1997. By its resolution 51/15 B of 13 June 1997, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of $15,091,000 gross ($14,478,400 net), inclusive of $561,000 for the support account for peacekeeping operations, for the maintenance of UNSMIH for the period from 1 to 31 July 1997 and its liquidation thereafter. This appropriation was based on the budget contained in the report of the Secretary-General dated 11 March 1997 (A/51/825).

2. On 30 July 1997, the Security Council, by its resolution 1123 (1997), established the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti (UNTMIH) for a single four-month period ending 30 November 1997. Pursuant to the decision of the Council, the Secretary-General submitted a report dated 22 October 1997 (A/52/512) containing a revised budget, which provided for the maintenance of UNSMIH for the month of July 1997, the maintenance of UNTMIH from 1 August to 30 November 1997 and the liquidation of the operations from 1 December 1997 to 30 June 1998. No action was taken by the General Assembly on that report.

3. The Security Council subsequently decided, by its resolution 1141 (1997) of 28 November 1997, to establish the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH), with a mandate limited to a single one-year period ending on 30 November 1998. Pending the issuance of revised cost estimates for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, the Secretary-General obtained the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to enter into commitments in the amount of $9,237,300 gross ($8,805,800 net) to meet the costs of MIPONUH, in accordance with the provisions of section IV of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994.

4. The revised budget for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 for the maintenance of UNSMIH, UNTMIH and MIPONUH was set out in the report of the Secretary-General dated 9 April 1998 (A/52/869). It amounted to $30,318,800 gross ($29,080,800 net), inclusive of budgeted voluntary contributions in kind totalling $1,999,900 for two medium-utility helicopters.

5. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in paragraph 19 of its report of 15 May 1998 (A/52/905), recommended that the General Assembly appropriate an amount of $13,227,900 gross ($12,602,500 net) in addition to the amount of $15,091,000 gross ($14,478,400 net) appropriated under resolution 51/15 B. The total appropriation for the reporting period amounted to $28,318,900 gross ($27,080,900 net).

6. The General Assembly, by its resolution 52/246 of 26 June 1998, appropriated an additional amount of $13,227,900 gross ($12,602,500 net) for the maintenance of the missions in Haiti for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998. These amounts have been assessed on Member States. By the same resolution, the Assembly decided to continue to use the Special Account established for UNSMIH in its resolution 51/15 A of 4 November 1996 for UNTMIH and MIPONUH.

7. In view of the General Assembly's decision to use the Special Account established for UNSMIH for the purpose of accounting for income and expenditure incurred for UNTMIH beginning on 1 August 1997 and for MIPONUH beginning on 1 December 1997, it is proposed that the special arrangements approved for UNSMIH in resolution 51/15 B with regard to the application of article IV of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, whereby appropriations required in respect of obligations owed to Governments

shall be retained beyond the period stipulated under financial regulations 4.3 and 4.4, as set out in the annex to the same resolution, also apply to UNTMIH and MIPONUH.

II. Implementation of the budget

8. Information on the operation of UNSMIH, UNTMIH and MIPONUH during the period under review is contained in the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council dated 19 July 1997 (S/1997/564), 31 October and 20 November 1997 (S/1997/832 and Add.1), 20 February 1998 (S/1998/144) and 28 May 1998 (S/1998/434).

9. The successful implementation of the UNSMIH political mandate provided a hostility-free environment, which resulted in the repatriation of military personnel and the reduction of civilian personnel.

10. Activities during the MIPONUH mandate focused on strengthening the capacity of the National Police to police the country. During the mandate, renovation was undertaken of police stations at which United Nations civilian police would be located in the course of strengthening and monitoring the National Police. Additionally, MIPONUH resumed operation of a marine security fleet in order to assist civilian police in their monitoring of various islands around the coastline.

11. The state of the mission's aged vehicle fleet continued to deteriorate. On 1 July 1997 there were 418 operational vehicles in the mission area, of which 194 had been written off by 30 June 1998. Some parts were salvaged from these vehicles for use as spare parts for the remaining fleet, resulting in savings under that line item.

III. Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998

12. As indicated in table 1, from the appropriation of $28,318,900 gross ($27,080,900 net) for the maintenance of UNSMIH, UNTMIH and MIPONUH for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, expenditures amounted to $27,412,100 gross ($26,215,700 net), inclusive of $5,146,800 in unliquidated obligations. The resulting unencumbered balance of $906,800 gross ($865,200 net) represents in gross terms, approximately 3 per cent of the amount appropriated. Annex I to the present report contains the financial performance information for the reporting period by budget line item, with supplementary information on significant variances presented in annex II. Annex IV contains a chart showing apportionment and expenditure by main budget groups.

Table 1
Apportionment and expenditure
(*Thousands of United States dollars*)

Category of expenditure	*Apportionment*	*Expenditure*[a]	*Variance*
Military personnel costs	2 181.2	2 169.1	12.1
Civilian personnel costs	17 905.8	17 368.9	536.9
Operational costs	8 344.1	7 596.5	747.6
Other programmes	88.7	44.0	44.7
United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi	—	476.1	(476.1)
Support account for peacekeeping operations	561.0	561.0	—
Staff assessment	1 238.0	1 196.4	41.6
Total	**30 318.8**	**29 412.0**	**906.8**
Income from staff assessment	(1 238.0)	(1 196.4)	(41.6)
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	(1 999.9)	(1 999.9)	—
Gross requirements	**28 318.9**	**27 412.1**	**906.8**
Net requirements	**27 080.9**	**26 215.7**	**865.2**
Voluntary contributions in kind (non-budgeted)	—	—	—
Total resources	**27 080.9**	**26 215.7**	**865.2**

[a] Includes an amount of $5,146,800 in unliquidated obligations.

13. Information on the deployment of military contingents and civilian personnel during the reporting period is presented in table 2 below and detailed in annex III to the present report.

Table 2
Authorized staffing, incumbency and vacancy rates for military and civilian personnel for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998

Personnel category	*Authorized strength*	*Budgeted strength (average)*	*Actual strength (average)*	*Vacancy rate (percentages)*
UNSMIH				
Military contingents	500	281	281	—
Civilian police	300	208	208	—
International staff	119	68	68	—
Local staff	156	78	78	—
United Nations Volunteers	14	13	13	—
UNTMIH				
Military contingents	50	40	40	—
Civilian police	250	209	209	—
International staff	51	40	40	—
Local staff	96	95	95	—
United Nations Volunteers	8	8	8	—
MIPONUH				
Military contingents	—	—	—	—
Civilian police	300	293	284	3.0
International staff	74	74	72	3.0
Local staff	133	133	133	—
United Nations Volunteers	17	15	13	13.0

IV. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session

14. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNSMIH, UNTMIH and MIPONUH are:

(a) A decision on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $906,800 gross ($865,200 net) for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998; and

(b) A decision that the special arrangements approved for UNSMIH in its resolution 51/15 B, as regards article IV of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, as set out in paragraph 7 above, be applied to UNTMIH and MIPONUH.

Annex I

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998: summary statement

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4) = (1-3)
	Apportionment	*Non-recurrent expenditures*	*Total expenditures (inclusive of non-recurrent expenditures)*	*Variance*
I. Military personnel costs				
1. Military observers	—	—	—	—
2. Military contingents	1 802.6	—	1 790.5	12.1
3. Other costs pertaining to military personnel				
(a) Contingent-owned equipment	291.9	—	291.9	—
(b) Death and disability compensation	86.7	—	86.7	—
Subtotal, line 3	**378.6**	**—**	**378.6**	**—**
Total, category I	**2 181.2**	**—**	**2 169.1**	**12.1**
II. Civilian personnel costs				
1. Civilian police	8 259.3	—	8 345.4	(86.1)
2. International and local staff	9 014.1	—	8 686.8	327.3
3. International contractual personnel	—	—	—	—
4. United Nations Volunteers	632.4	—	336.7	295.7
5. Government-provided personnel	—	—	—	—
6. Civilian electoral observers	—	—	—	—
Total, category II	**17 905.8**	**—**	**17 368.9**	**536.9**
III. Operational costs				
1. Premises/accommodation	1 107.4	244.2	966.2	141.2
2. Infrastructure repairs	—	—	—	—
3. Transport operations	1 540.5	37.5	1 185.1	355.4
4. Air operations[a]	2 853.4	—	2 882.8	(29.4)
5. Naval operations	0.3	—	12.7	(12.4)
6. Communications	309.4	109.5	274.2	35.2
7. Other equipment	298.1	93.1	290.2	7.9
8. Supplies and services	1 217.0	49.6	966.5	250.5
9. Air and surface freight				
(a) Transport of contingent-owned equipment	1 000.0	—	1 000.0	—
(b) Commercial freight and cartage	18.0	—	18.8	(0.8)
Subtotal, line 9	**1 018.0**	**—**	**1 018.8**	**(0.8)**
Total, category III	**8 344.1**	**533.9**	**7 596.5**	**747.6**

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4) = (1-3)
	Apportionment	*Non-recurrent expenditures*[a]	*Total expenditures (inclusive of non-recurrent expenditures)*	*Variance*
IV. Other programmes				
1. Election-related supplies and services	—	—	—	—
2. Public information programmes	88.7	—	44.0	44.7
3. Training programmes	—	—	—	—
4. Mine-clearing programmes	—	—	—	—
5. Assistance for disarmament and demobilization	—	—	—	—
Total, category IV	**88.7**	**—**	**44.0**	**44.7**
V. United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi	—	—	476.1	(476.1)
VI. Support account for peacekeeping operations	561.0	—	561.0	—
VII. Staff assessment	1 238.0	—	1 196.4	41.6
Total, categories I–VII	**30 318.8**	**533.9**	**29 412.0**	**906.8**
VIII. Income from staff assessment	(1 238.0)	—	(1 196.4)	(41.6)
IX. Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	(1 999.9)	—	(1 999.9)	—
Total, categories VIII and IX	**(3 237.9)**	**—**	**(3 196.3)**	**(41.6)**
Gross requirements	28 318.9	533.9	27 412.1	906.8
Net requirements	27 080.9	533.9	26 215.7	865.2
X. Voluntary contributions in kind (non-budgeted)	—	—	—	—
Total resources	**27 080.9**	**533.9**	**26 215.7**	**865.2**

[a] Includes budgeted voluntary contributions in kind.

Annex II

Supplementary information on significant variances

Civilian personnel costs

Apportionment: $17,905,800; expenditure: $17,368,900; variance: $536,900

1. The unutilized balance of $536,900 under this heading resulted from reduced requirements totalling $623,000 under international and local staff ($327,300) and United Nations Volunteers ($295,700), which were partially offset by additional requirements for civilian police ($86,100).

Civilian police

Apportionment: $8,259,300; expenditure: $8,345,400; variance: ($86,100)

2. Additional requirements of $86,100 under civilian police were attributable primarily to the payment of mission subsistence allowance at the higher first-30-day rate of $124 to civilian police who rotated during the period from 1 January to 30 June 1998. The MIPONUH cost estimates of $2,475,100 for this six-month period were based on payment at $124 for 390 person-days for 13 civilian police to be deployed ($48,400), at $87 per day for 27,803 person-days ($2,418,900), as well as within-mission travel at $1,300 per month ($7,800). Actual expenditures amounted to $2,563,600 for payment of mission subsistence allowance at $124 per day for 2,456 person-days ($304,600) and at $87 per day for 25,966 person-days ($2,259,000). Expenditures for within mission travel were changed to travel.

International and local staff

Apportionment: $9,014,100; expenditure: $8,686,800; variance: $327,300

3. The unutilized balance of $327,300 under this heading resulted primarily from lower requirements for common staff costs, in particular in respect of mission appointees, and the fact that expenditures for local staff salaries for the first six-month period included in the revised cost estimates reflected gross amounts instead of net amounts.

United Nations Volunteers

Apportionment: $632,400; expenditure: $336,700; variance: $295,700

4. The unutilized balance of $295,700 was due to lower deployment of United Nations Volunteers than was planned for the MIPONUH mandate.

Operational costs

Apportionment: $8,344,100; expenditure: $7,596,500; variance: $747,600

5. The unutilized balance of $747,600 under this heading resulted from reduced requirements totalling $790,200 under premises/accommodation ($141,200), transport operations ($355,400), communications ($35,200), other equipment ($7,900) and supplies and services ($250,500), which were partially offset by additional requirements totalling $42,600 for air operations ($29,400), naval operations ($12,400) and air and surface freight ($800).

Premises/accommodation

Apportionment: $1,107,400; expenditure: $966,200; variance: $141,200

6. Lower requirements for maintenance supplies and utilities were the main reason for the unutilized balance of $141,200 under premises/accommodation. The mission reduced the number of generators throughout the mission area and consolidated the generator sets in Camp Argentine (formerly Camp Maple Leaf) in order to service a smaller population during the MIPONUH mandate.

Transport operations

Apportionment: $1,540,500; expenditure: $1,185,100; variance: $355,400

7. There was an unutilized balance of $355,400 under transport operations. Most of these savings related to spare parts, repairs and maintenance. During the reporting period, a total of 194 vehicles were written off and cannibalized. Spare parts were salvaged from those vehicles and used to meet requirements for the remaining fleet, thus reducing the need to purchase spare parts. Savings were also reported under rental of vehicles owing to the fact that funds had not been obligated for the second training course and the reimbursement costs of five maintenance personnel. Provision for these items will be included in the revised budget for 1998–1999.

Supplies and services

Apportionment: $1,217,000; expenditure: $966,500; variance: $250,500

8. The unutilized balance of $250,500 under this heading resulted primarily from the fact that there were fewer cases requiring medical treatment in Miami than estimated. Savings were also attributable to the hiring of fewer individuals under contractual services and the donation of a substantial stock of sanitation and cleaning materials from the departing Canadian contingent.

United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi

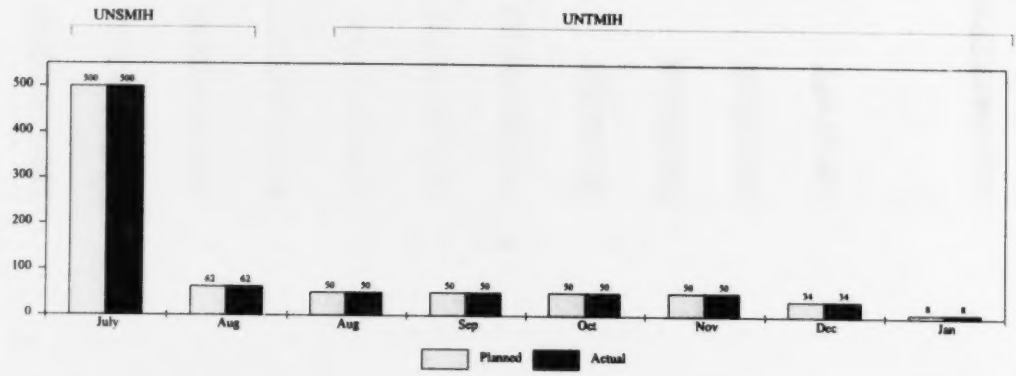
Apportionment: none; expenditure: $476,100; variance: ($476,100)

9. The expenditure of $476,100 represents the mission's prorated share of the cost of maintaining the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi for the reporting period based on General Assembly resolution 52/1 A of 15 October 1997.

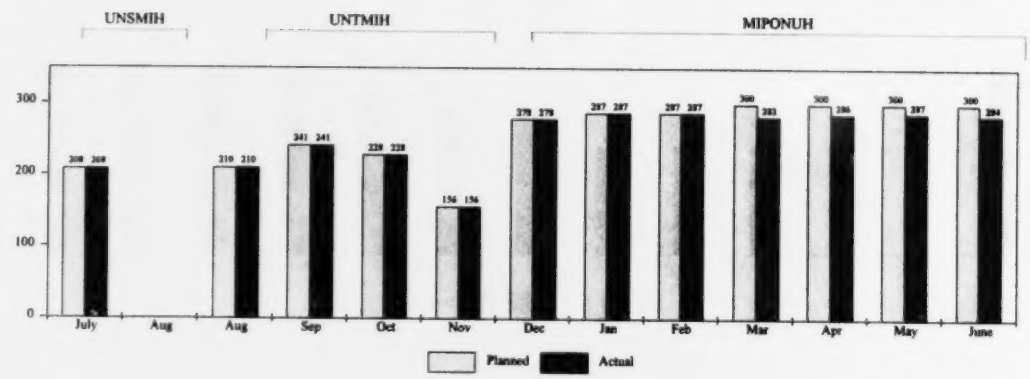
Annex III

Planned and actual deployment of military and civilian personnel for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998

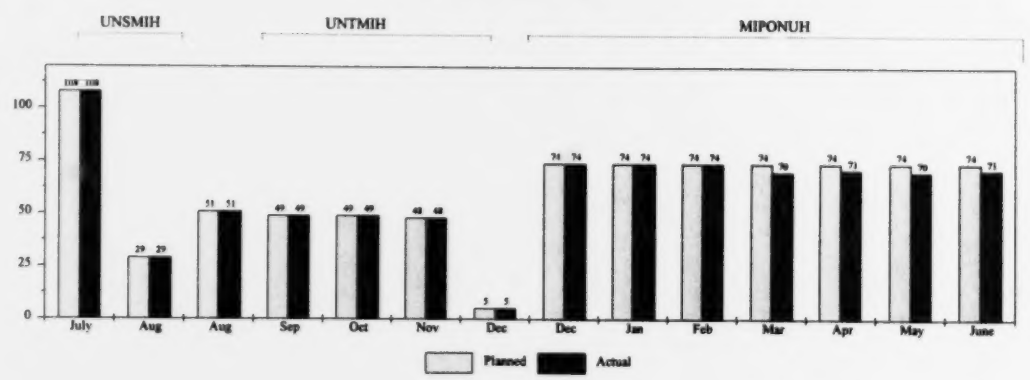
1. Military contingents



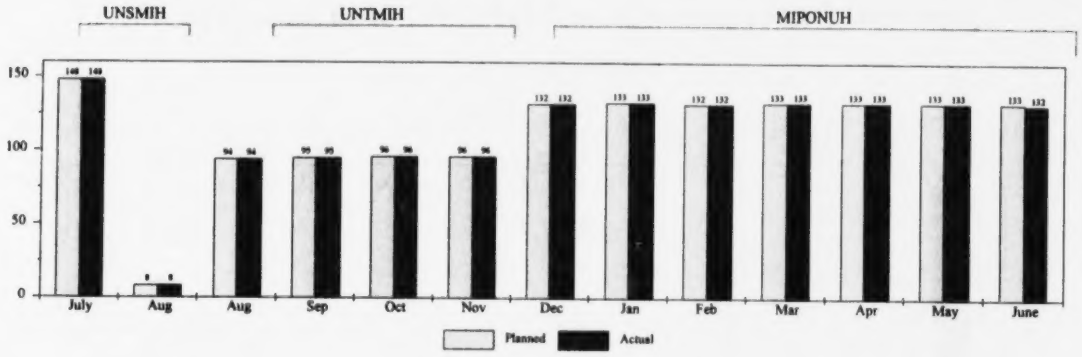
2. Civilian police



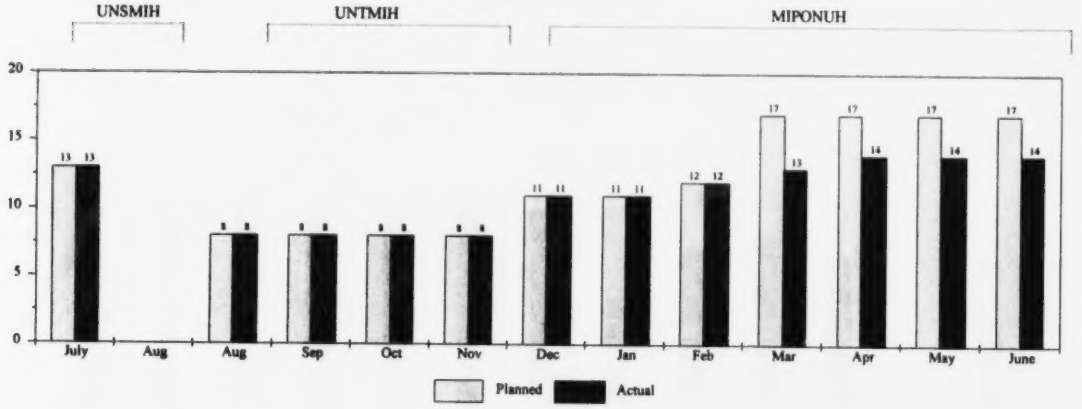
3. International staff



4. Local staff

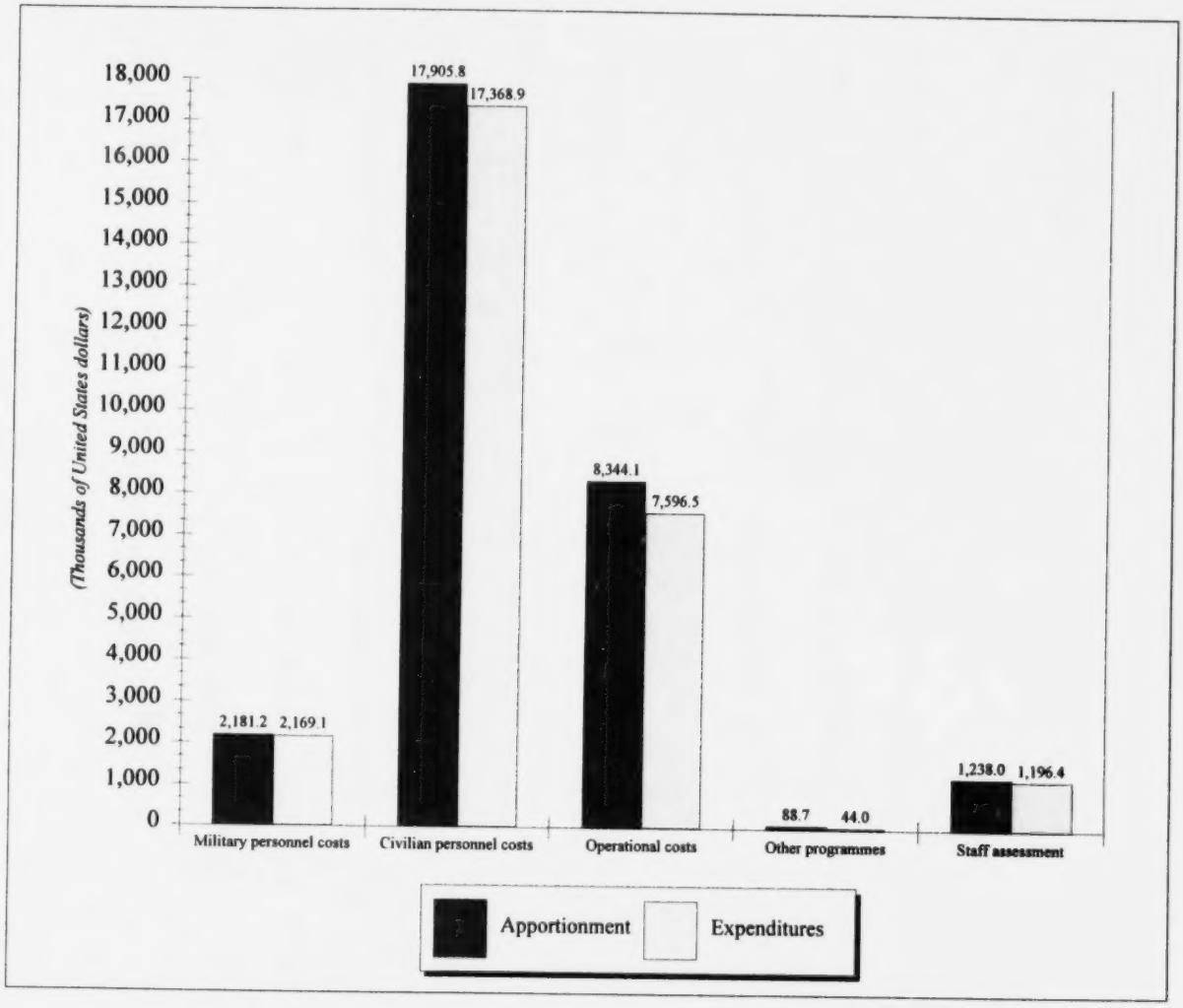


5. United Nations Volunteers



Annex IV

Apportionment and expenditure for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998



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Fifty-third session
Agenda items 40, 59, 71, 78, 79, 93, 94, 104 and 155

The situation in the Middle East

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

General and complete disarmament

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Environment and sustainable development

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 23 December 1998 from the representatives of Japan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of the Moscow Declaration on Establishing a Creative Partnership between Japan and the Russian Federation, signed at Moscow by Prime Minister K. Obuchi of Japan and President B. N. Yeltsin of the Russian Federation on 13 November 1998 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40, 59, 71, 78, 79, 93, 94, 104 and 155.

(*Signed*) Yukio **Satoh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Yuriy V. **Fedotov**
First Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

98-40403 (E) 040199

Annex

Moscow Declaration on Establishing a Creative Partnership between Japan and the Russian Federation

The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation,

Sharing the recognition that, on the eve of the twenty-first century, as the democratization process advances and new forms of relations between States develop in the international community against a background of the realities of the present-day world, the roles and responsibilities of Japan and the Russian Federation are increasing and closer cooperation between the two countries is needed,

Convinced that Japan and the Russian Federation, which are now jointly sharing the universal values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law and the respect for fundamental human rights, should build a creative partnership consistent with their strategic and geopolitical interests by, *inter alia*, fully normalizing their bilateral relations based on the Tokyo Declaration of 13 October 1993, and on this Declaration,

Appreciating the development of relations between Japan and the Russian Federation based on the Tokyo Declaration, which formed the foundation for the construction of this creative partnership, and determined to further develop the bilateral relationship in all areas,

Confirming their common recognition that their bilateral relations are currently developing rapidly as a result of the constructive dialogue between the leaders of the two countries, at the informal summit meetings in Krasnoyarsk and Kawana and on other occasions, and that the time is approaching to overcome the difficult legacies of the past mentioned in the Tokyo Declaration,

Pointing out the need to realize the potential for economic cooperation between the two countries in a broader and more effective manner, and that this is possible in many areas through continued economic reform in the Russian Federation and support from Japan,

Recognizing that a substantive improvement in Japanese/Russian relations will have a favourable influence on the international situation, particularly on the situation in the Asia-Pacific region, whose political and economic significance is continuously growing,

Affirming the importance of activating their common efforts to strengthen international peace and security based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to solve global issues which require an immediate response,

Declare the following:

I. Bilateral relations

1. The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation state that the relations between their countries occupy an important place in their respective foreign policies. The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation recognize that the most important task for their countries is to build a long-term creative partnership founded on the principles of trust, mutual benefit, a long-term perspective and close economic cooperation.

Under this partnership, both leaders are determined not only to jointly solve various bilateral issues but to contribute to the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region and the international community through cooperation in international forums, to cooperate more

actively for the solution of various global issues and to usher the bilateral relationship into an era of "agreement" by strengthening "trust".

2. The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation, taking into consideration that the Russian side communicated its reply to the proposal regarding a solution to the issue of the attribution of the islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and Habomai made by the Japanese side at the Summit Meeting in Kawana held in April this year, instruct their Governments to accelerate negotiations on the conclusion of a peace treaty on the basis of the Tokyo Declaration as well as on the agreements reached at the summit meetings in Krasnoyarsk and Kawana.

The two leaders reaffirm their resolve to make their utmost efforts to conclude a peace treaty by the year 2000. Towards that end, both leaders instruct their Governments to establish a subcommittee on border demarcation within the framework of the existing Japanese-Russian Joint Committee on the Conclusion of a Peace Treaty.

The two leaders also instruct their Governments to establish a subcommittee on joint economic activities on the above-mentioned islands, which would conduct its activities in parallel with those of the subcommittee on border demarcation and define what kinds of joint economic activities could be implemented in the above-mentioned islands without prejudice to the legal positions of both sides.

The two leaders agree in principle, from a humanitarian perspective, on implementing so-called free visits to the above-mentioned islands, which would be streamlined to the maximum extent possible, by Japanese nationals who are former residents of those islands or their family members. They also instruct their Governments to examine legal and practical aspects of the procedures for such visits.

3. The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation recognize the importance of cooperation regarding the islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and Habomai aiming at deepening mutual understanding among the residents of neighbouring regions in Japan and the Russian Federation and further developing multifaceted and mutually beneficial cooperation, thereby fostering an environment conducive to the early conclusion of a peace treaty.

In this regard, both leaders welcome the expansion of the framework for cooperation between the two countries in situations where, for humanitarian reasons, an urgent response is required. Furthermore, both leaders highly value the conclusion of the agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Russian Federation on some matters in the field of fishing operations for living marine resources, as well as the smooth implementation of operations under that agreement, and confirm that this is contributing greatly to strengthening the relations of trust between the two countries.

4. The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation firmly intend to deepen and strengthen political dialogue between the two countries. The two leaders express their intention to have formal contacts at the leaders' level each year and to continue to actively utilize the practice of holding informal summit meetings.

5. The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation evaluate positively the recently expanding exchanges between Japan and the Russian Federation in the fields of security and defence. They affirm that they are prepared to continue and deepen such exchanges, since they not only enhance trust and mutual understanding in the bilateral relationship, but also advance the positive process of improving confidence-building measures and securing transparency in the field of Asia-Pacific security.

6. The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation will promote more exchanges among the law enforcement authorities of the two countries, in view of the importance of cooperation in the prevention of organized crime and smuggling.

7. The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation agree that wide-ranging exchanges at the grass-roots level play an extremely important role in maintaining an environment conducive to the further steady development of Japanese-Russian relations. For that purpose, the two leaders welcome the establishment of the Russian Committee of the Twenty-first Century in the Russian Federation and of the Japanese-Russian Friendship Forum 21 in Japan, and intend to provide all possible assistance to their activities.

Furthermore, the two leaders note the importance of broad exchanges between Japan and the Russian Federation at the State and regional levels.

8. The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation note that the cultures, traditions and world outlook of their peoples have much in common and note the importance of cooperating for the mutual enrichment of the cultures of the peoples of Japan and the Russian Federation. The two leaders intend to further promote diverse relations between their countries in the areas of culture and information exchange.

9. The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation recognize the particular significance of youth exchanges between the two countries, considering that the accuracy and objectiveness of their understanding of the importance of Japanese-Russian relations and the formation of their sense of responsibility for the future will be enhanced through more active exchanges between the youth of both countries.

10. The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation affirm that further enhancement of cooperation by both countries in the areas of trade and economics is to their mutual benefit, and state their determination to further develop cooperation in these areas from a long-term perspective. In this regard, both leaders note the important role of the Hashimoto-Yeltsin Plan, which is a comprehensive programme for economic cooperation between Japan and the Russian Federation prepared by the leaders of the two countries, and will continue to steadily implement the plan and discuss possible ways of further expanding it.

Based on the common recognition that there is ample potential for cooperation by the two countries in the economic field, including the development of the abundant natural resources in Siberia and the Russian Far East, the two leaders state their intention to further promote such cooperation. The two leaders share the view that cooperation by the two countries in this direction will contribute to the prosperity of both countries as well as the entire Asia-Pacific region in the twenty-first century.

The two leaders affirm that their countries will continue working to accomplish the above tasks and to improve the environment for trade and investment between the two countries. For this purpose, the two countries will hold annually meetings of the Japanese-Russian Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs.

Both leaders welcome the signing of the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Russian Federation, on the Promotion and Protection of Investments, aimed at the establishment of the Japanese-Russian Investment Company.

11. The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation share the view that economic development in the Russian Federation and the integration of the Russian Federation into the international community will contribute not only to the development of bilateral relations, but also to the prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region and of the world

as a whole. The Russian Federation will continue reforms towards the establishment of a stable economic infrastructure as well as the earliest possible integration into the international economic system, and the Government of Japan will provide every support for these reform efforts by the Russian Federation and will work in close coordination with the international community to achieve these objectives.

12. The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation recognize that the potential for cooperation in the fields of science and technology between both countries is extremely great. They support exchanges and cooperation, including joint projects, in basic and applied scientific research as well as in areas of research and development with potential for the development of modern society and sustainable economic growth in the future.

II. Cooperation on international issues

The Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the Russian Federation state their intention to expand and deepen coordinated action by Japan and the Russian Federation on international issues, as follows:

Global issues

1. Japan and the Russian Federation will strengthen their coordinated action within the framework of the Group of Eight (G-8).

2. Japan and the Russian Federation will continue their dialogue on various issues concerning United Nations reform, including reform of the Security Council. The Russian Federation understands Japan's intention to become a permanent member of the Security Council, supports that intention and states its recognition that Japan is a strong candidate for obtaining this status.

3. Japan and the Russian Federation will expand cooperation on the strengthening of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the negotiation of a treaty on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. They will also expand their collaborative relations within the international export control regimes in which both participate, continue their dialogue on domestic export control issues and take coordinated action to secure the effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.

4. Japan and the Russian Federation will promote information exchanges on peacekeeping operations. Both countries will cooperate with efforts by the international community to prevent conflicts and normalize the situation in conflict areas around the world. Japan and the Russian Federation will strengthen their coordinated action in various forums, particularly within the G-8 framework, in the fight against terrorism.

5. Japan and the Russian Federation will coordinate their various efforts with regard to environmental issues, particularly on climate change.

The Asia-Pacific region

6. Maintaining close bilateral contact and in cooperation with other countries, Japan and the Russian Federation will participate actively in efforts to build confidence and ensure peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

7. Japan and the Russian Federation will continue coordinated action with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and work to continue making constructive contributions to the activities of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) on security issues.

8. Japan and the Russian Federation will hold consultations and cooperate with a view to easing tensions and assisting the development of dialogue and cooperative relations on the Korean peninsula. They will also continue collaborative action in addressing the issue of Cambodia.

9. Japan and the Russian Federation express their expectations for progress in the four-party talks on peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Furthermore, the two countries share the view that, in the future, the creation of a forum for discussing security and confidence-building in North-East Asia among the concerned countries, including Japan and the Russian Federation, will be important in contributing to the peace and stability of North-East Asia.

10. Japan supports the constructive participation of the Russian Federation in the activities of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Japan and the Russian Federation will strive to deepen dialogue on stable economic development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan and the Russian Federation will cooperate in the development of international cooperation in the area of energy in the Asia-Pacific region, in the belief that it will promote energy security as well as contribute to the solution of global warming issues and, in turn, to the stability and socio-economic development of the region.

11. Japan and the Russian Federation will continue their cooperative efforts to counter ocean pollution, acid rain and other environmental problems in the Asia-Pacific region.

Regional issues

12. Japan and the Russian Federation will continue their cooperation to promote the progress of peace in the Middle East.

13. Japan and the Russian Federation will develop cooperative relations to foster an environment for stable and multidimensional cooperation with the Central Asia and the Trans-Caucasus regions.

Consultations on international issues

14. Japan and the Russian Federation will actively conduct regular bilateral consultations and information exchanges on international issues relating to various regions and fields with a view to strengthening and making more effective their bilateral cooperation on such issues.

Moscow, 13 November 1998.

(*Signed*) **Prime Minister of Japan** (*Signed*) **President of the Russian Federation**

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THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
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MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 22 December 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith subparagraph (a) of the paragraph concerning the issue of the Iranian occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates contained in the final communiqué of the nineteenth session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held in Abu Dhabi from 7 to 9 December 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 39, 40, 64, 71, 74, 91, 93, 149 and 155, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Excerpt from the final communiqué of the nineteenth session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held in Abu Dhabi from 7 to 9 December 1998

(a) The issue of the occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates:

The Supreme Council reviewed developments in the matter of the Iranian occupation of the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa belonging to the United Arab Emirates. It noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran was persisting in making unacceptable claims with regard to the three islands and continuing to take measures designed to consolidate its occupation. The Supreme Council once again reaffirmed the need for the Iranian Government to respond to the repeated earnest and sincere invitations from the United Arab Emirates, the Gulf Cooperation Council States, the Damascus Declaration States, the League of Arab States and other regional and international organizations, institutions and groupings, to arrive at a peaceful solution of this conflict, thereby allowing the positive policies of the Government of President Mohammad Khatami to gain the credibility necessary for the establishment of mutual confidence, the development of cooperation and the upholding of security and stability in the region.

The Supreme Council reiterated its affirmation that the United Arab Emirates holds sovereignty over the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and its absolute support for all peaceful measures and means that country might adopt in order to restore its sovereignty over those islands. It also reiterated its request to the Iranian Government to terminate its occupation of the three islands, desist from its policy of imposing the status quo by force, refrain from placing Iranian installations on the islands with a view to altering their demographic composition, annul all measures, remove all installations already unilaterally put in place on the islands and use peaceful means, including referral of the issue to the International Court of Justice, in order to resolve the dispute, in accordance with the principles and precepts of international law.

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MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 22 December 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the final communiqué and Abu Dhabi declaration adopted at the nineteenth session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council held in Abu Dhabi from 7 to 9 December 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 39, 40, 62, 71, 74, 91, 93, 149 and 155, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Final communiqué

In response to the kind invitation of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council held its nineteenth session in the United Arab Emirates from 18 to 20 Sha'ban A.H. 1419 (7 to 9 December A.D. 1998), under the presidency of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and with the participation of the following:

His Highness Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Amir of Bahrain;

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard of Saudi Arabia;

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman;

His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of Qatar;

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait.

His Excellency Sheikh Jamil Ibrahim al-Hegelan, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, also attended.

The Supreme Council considered developments in the process of cooperation in security, military, economic, social and information fields since the eighteenth session and studied the reports and recommendations submitted by the Ministerial Council. It affirmed the determination of Gulf Cooperation Council States to continue to strengthen and defend the Council's progress towards wider horizons, with a view to realizing improved results in response to the aspirations of the citizens of Council States, and in order to bring security, stability and development to the region.

The Supreme Council gave full consideration to developments in the political and security situations at regional and international levels.

The Supreme Council greatly appreciated the attendance of His Excellency Mr. Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, at the opening meeting, the important speech he made and the meetings he had with the leaders of Gulf Cooperation Council States while the session was being held in Abu Dhabi. It commended the role the President played in establishing the excellent relations enjoyed by Council States and the Republic of South Africa, and thanked him for the appreciative remarks he made with respect to the Gulf Cooperation Council and its regional and international role. The Council extended to President Mandela its good wishes for happiness and success in his private and public life in coming years.

The Supreme Council was highly appreciative of the speech delivered by His Excellency Mr. Jacques Chirac, President of France, to the leaders of Gulf Cooperation Council States at the opening meeting, in which he expressed his country's friendship and respect for the Council.

The Supreme Council was gratified by the attendance of His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the opening meeting, and greatly appreciated the speech he made and the meetings he had with the leaders of Gulf Cooperation Council States. It expressed its approval of and support for the activities of the United Nations and the leading role assigned to it in dealing with international relations, which it performs in a manner that best serves international peace and security and economic, social and human development for all peoples and States of the world. The Supreme Council expressed its pride in the appreciation and respect voiced by the Secretary-General for the Gulf Cooperation Council and its importance in strengthening security, stability and development in the region.

The Supreme Council acknowledged with gratitude the attendance at the opening meeting of the nineteenth session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council of His Excellency Dr. Esmat Abdel Meguid, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and His Excellency Mr. Azzeddine Laraki, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the useful meetings and consultations they held with leaders of Council States.

The process of joint cooperation

The holding of a half-yearly consultative meeting of the Supreme Council

The Supreme Council decided that His Majesty and Their Highnesses, the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council States, would hold a fraternal consultative meeting between sessions.

Military matters

The Supreme Council approved the decisions adopted at the seventeenth meeting of Their Highnesses and Their Excellencies the Ministers of Defence of the Council States, held in Riyadh, with regard to a defence force for the peninsula, continuation of the implementation of the network of security communications, radar and early warning coverage and other areas of military cooperation. The Council expressed satisfaction at the steps that had been taken, affirming the importance of continued implementation of all military cooperation programmes intended to strengthen the collective defence capabilities of every Council State.

Security

The Supreme Council approved the decisions adopted at the seventeenth meeting of Their Highnesses and Their Excellencies the Ministers of the Interior, held in Kuwait on 3 and 4 November 1998, and expressed satisfaction at the coordination and cooperation that had been effected in various areas of the security cooperation process, and, in particular, with regard to the strengthening of collective measures to combat violence and terrorism and the

development of professional training programmes and technical education in penal and reform institutions.

Economic matters

The Supreme Council studied the situation in the oil market and the effects of the fall in prices on the economies of member States. The Council stressed the desire of member States for cooperation with a view to stabilizing the oil market and improving prices, and the need for oil-producing States to abide by the reduced quotas that had been agreed upon in November 1998 in order to achieve those ends. The Supreme Council approved the extension of the reduced production quotas agreed by member States until the end of 1999, and urged other petroleum-producing States to take comparable measures in order to bring stability to the market, in the best interests of producers and consumers and of peace and stability in the global economy. If States respected the reduced quotas, Council member States were prepared to enter into appropriate arrangements with other oil-producing States with a view to stabilizing the market. The Supreme Council instructed the Committee on Petroleum Cooperation to intensify contacts to that end.

In preparation for the new round of trade negotiations to be held by the World Trade Organization in the year 2000, the Supreme Council instructed the Committee on Petroleum Cooperation and the Committee on Trade Cooperation in member States to study the effects and benefits of oil being included among the products to be completely exempt from customs duties by the World Trade Organization.

The Supreme Council reviewed the progress made in economic cooperation and the succession of steps taken with a view to establishing a customs union for member States. It approved the timetable for the establishment of such a union, and the beginning of work related to that project in March 2001. The Council instructed the Committee on Financial and Economic Cooperation to conclude an agreement on a unified customs tariff by no later than December 1999.

Desirous of achieving balance between demographic composition and the labour force in member States and increasing the level of their citizens' economic participation, the Supreme Council approved a document entitled The general framework for the demographic strategy of the Gulf Cooperation Council States.

With a view to meeting the challenges and demands of comprehensive development and drawing up broad guidelines for coping with such challenges during the first quarter of the twenty-first century and specifying the strategic goals for development in Council States, and the development processes and mechanisms necessary to achieve those goals, the Supreme Council approved a document entitled A comprehensive, long-term development strategy for Gulf Cooperation Council States, 2000-2025.

In support of the industrial development process in member States and of joint industrial cooperation efforts to achieve industrial development on an integrated basis, and with a view to increasing the contribution of the industrial sector to gross national product, the Supreme Council approved the

amended version of the unified strategy for the industrial development of the Gulf Cooperation Council States.

In order to complete the harmonization of economic regulations in member States, the Supreme Council approved the two compulsory regimes for agricultural quarantine and for veterinary quarantine in member States, the consultation process on which, held over recent years, has been completed.

With a view to ameliorating the profession of accountancy and auditing, developing standards in and effecting coordination and integration amongst member States, the Supreme Council approved the basic regulation for the accountancy and auditing board of Gulf Cooperation Council States.

In order to protect human health and the environment, the Supreme Council approved the recommendation to speed up production of lead-free gasoline (benzine) and market it in member States by the year 2002. It also approved the taking of all the measures necessary to reduce the amount of sulphur in the diesel produced by national refineries, in order to comply with the relevant maximum global levels.

The Supreme Council welcomed the establishment of the patents office and the inauguration of its work, affirming the concern of member States to protect intellectual property.

The Supreme Council reviewed the economic situation in member States, and affirmed its concern to ensure the continuance of a climate favourable to investment in those countries, with a view to strengthening the production capacities of their economies and increasing employment opportunities for nationals. It commended the private sector's effective participation in various economic sectors and activities.

With regard to expanding the range of Gulf Cooperation Council States' economic relations with international economic groupings and States, the Supreme Council acknowledged the efforts made to develop and deepen the dialogue and negotiations with such groupings and States, and stressed the importance of increased efforts to expand the range of Council States' relations with them, thereby assuring joint economic and investment interests and removing obstacles to Council States' exports reaching such groupings and world markets.

The Consultative Council

The Supreme Council having constituted the Consultative Council, it expressed its satisfaction at the inauguration of its work, and instructed it to consider the employment of national labour forces and to facilitate the transfer thereof between States in order to increase employment opportunities for Council States' nationals.

Human concerns and the environment

The Supreme Council decided that Council States' Ministers of Education should prepare a comprehensive study for the development of curricula, with a

view to strengthening mutual contacts and best serving the needs of member States, reinforcing Council procedures and achieving its goals.

Information

The Supreme Council took cognizance of the conclusions of the ninth meeting of Information Ministers, held in November 1998, and approved the recommendations submitted concerning support and encouragement for joint information activities carried out by the information organs of Council States. The Council also decided that those organs should continue to monitor developments in international information in conformity with the goals of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The Joint Supreme Committee for Cooperation between Qatar and the United Arab Emirates

The Supreme Council took cognizance of the agreement to establish the Joint Supreme Committee for Cooperation between Qatar and the United Arab Emirates signed in Doha on 17 Sha'ban A.H. 1419 (6 December A.D. 1998), welcoming the agreement as beneficial to and in the best interests of the two countries and their fraternal peoples and as a positive and important step in support of Gulf Cooperation Council work and consonant with the lofty goals of Council States.

Political matters

Implementation by Iraq of Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait

The Supreme Council discussed developments in Iraq's implementation of Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait, and noted the successive crises with the United Nations provoked by the Iraqi Government and the consequent tension and threat to security and stability in the region. The Council expressed its satisfaction that the most recent crisis between Iraq and the United Nations had been defused by the Iraqi Government's renunciation of its decisions of 5 August and 31 October 1998 to halt cooperation with the Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and its resumption of cooperation with United Nations inspectors in accordance with the mechanisms provided for in the Security Council resolutions and the memorandum of understanding signed by the Government of Iraq and the Secretary-General of the United Nations in February 1998. The fraternal Iraqi people and the region were thereby spared any further perils and security and stability were upheld. The Council affirmed its support for the endeavours of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Special Commission, which has been given an international mandate to eliminate all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. The Council stressed that the Iraqi Government should strictly and faithfully undertake its obligation to implement all Security Council resolutions without conditions or exceptions, and, in particular, with regard to the elimination of all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, the freeing of Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees, the return of Kuwaiti property and compliance with Security Council resolution 949 (1994), which demands that Iraq not again utilize its military or any other forces in a hostile or provocative manner to threaten the State of Kuwait or its neighbours. The performance of these

obligations would help to ease the sanctions imposed on Iraq and alleviate the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people, for which the Iraqi Government is entirely responsible, and by which Council States are deeply distressed. In view of that suffering, the Council welcomed the oil-for-food agreement to supply the fraternal Iraqi people with food and medicine, and Security Council resolution 1210 (1998) renewing that agreement, just as it has always welcomed any initiative that serves to alleviate that suffering.

The Supreme Council reiterated the statement made at its previous session and published in the relevant documents, to the effect that Iraq must unequivocally and clearly recognize that its attack on and occupation of Kuwait was a violation of Arab and international conventions and legitimacy, a violation of the Charter of the League of Arab States, the Joint Arab Defence Treaty and the Charter of the United Nations. It also reiterated its appeal to Iraq to take the sufficient and necessary steps, in word and in deed, to prove its peaceful intentions towards Kuwait and its neighbouring States, in a manner that would bring security and stability to all States of the region.

The Supreme Council reaffirmed its steadfast endorsement of the continued independence, territorial integrity and regional security of Iraq.

The question of the occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran

(a) The issue of the occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates:

The Supreme Council reviewed developments in the matter of the Iranian occupation of the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa belonging to the United Arab Emirates. It noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran was persisting in making unacceptable claims with regard to the three islands and continuing to take measures designed to consolidate its occupation. The Supreme Council once again reaffirmed the need for the Iranian Government to respond to the repeated earnest and sincere invitations from the United Arab Emirates, the Gulf Cooperation Council States, the Damascus Declaration States, the League of Arab States and other regional and international organizations, institutions and groupings, to arrive at a peaceful solution of this conflict, thereby allowing the positive policies of the Government of President Mohammad Khatami to gain the credibility necessary for the establishment of mutual confidence, the development of cooperation and the upholding of security and stability in the region.

The Supreme Council reiterated its affirmation that the United Arab Emirates holds sovereignty over the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and its absolute support for all peaceful measures and means that country might adopt in order to restore its sovereignty over those islands. It also reiterated its request to the Iranian Government to terminate its occupation of the three islands, desist from its policy of imposing the status quo by force, refrain from placing Iranian installations on the islands with a view to altering their demographic composition, annul all measures, remove all installations already unilaterally put in place on the islands and use peaceful means, including referral of the issue to the International Court

of Justice, in order to resolve the dispute, in accordance with the principles and precepts of international law.

(b) Relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran:

The Supreme Council carried out a comprehensive review of the relations of Council States with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and of the outcome of bilateral contacts since the Council's last session in the light of the Gulf Cooperation Council position, which focuses on the importance of establishing good relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, pursuant to the principles of good-neighbourliness, mutual respect, consideration for shared interests, non-interference in internal affairs, refraining from the use or threat of force and the resolution of disputes by peaceful means. The Supreme Council expressed its conviction that trust could be built by taking practical steps to resolve the problems between the two sides, pursuant to the established international precepts and norms with regard to the resolution of disputes by peaceful means. A prime example of such a dispute is the continued occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates.

The Supreme Council welcomed the efforts made by Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, with a view to arranging negotiations between the United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to settle their dispute over the three islands. The Supreme Council urged the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue his efforts and to sponsor the negotiations.

The Supreme Council also called upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to make some meaningful response to the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in order to establish security and stability in the region.

<u>The Middle East peace process</u>

The Supreme Council considered developments in the Middle East peace process and welcomed the Wye River Memorandum signed on 23 October 1998 by the Palestinian and Israeli sides. This represents an important and positive step that must be followed by further steps towards carrying out all the agreements signed by the parties concerned, upholding all Arab rights and laying the foundations for security, stability and a comprehensive and lasting peace in the best interests of all the peoples of the region. It also expressed its appreciation of the significant efforts made by the President of the United States, Mr. William Clinton, to ensure that the Palestinian and Israeli sides had concluded that agreement. In this context, the Supreme Council demands that the Israeli Government should, without procrastination, honour its obligation to implement the Memorandum in a faithful and scrupulous fashion.

The Supreme Council reaffirmed that the peace which is sought can only be achieved through the restoration of legitimate Arab rights and commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy, the central themes of the Madrid Peace Conference and the principle of land for peace, pursuant to Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978) and 426 (1978). It also reiterated its affirmation that peace will only be just, lasting and

comprehensive when the Palestinian people obtains its legitimate national rights, foremost of which is the establishment of an independent State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital; that Israel must completely withdraw from all occupied Arab territory, including the Syrian Arab Golan, to the boundary line that existed on 4 June 1967, and from southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa, pursuant to Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), without imposing conditions or restrictions, and that the United Nations should remain seized of the matter.

The Supreme Council expressed its absolute rejection and condemnation of the settlement policy pursued by Israel in the occupied Arab territories and of the Israeli Government's decision to expand the geographical boundaries of the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and change its demographic composition, considering that decision to be a violation of the provisions of international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy. It reaffirmed its commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy which stipulate that situations resulting from Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories should not be recognized or accepted, and demanded that such activities should cease and that Israel should refrain from any action that could have a negative impact on the final status negotiations with the Palestinian side.

While it appreciates the efforts made by the United States Administrat on, the Russian Federation, the European Union and its member States to help put the peace process back on track, the Supreme Council urges those States to continue to expand their effective role and bring pressure to bear on Israel to honour its undertakings and carry out its commitments, and to insist on the need for negotiations to be resumed on the Syrian track from the point at which they broke off, as well as on the Lebanese track, in order to achieve peace, security and stability for the region and its peoples.

The elimination of weapons of mass destruction

The Supreme Council renewed its request to the international community to work towards the establishment of a zone free from all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in the Middle East, including the Gulf region. The Council reiterated its affirmation that Israel must accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and place all its nuclear installations under the international inspection system of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Lockerbie question

The Supreme Council reviewed developments in the Lockerbie crisis and the response of the parties concerned to the diplomatic initiatives put forward with a view to resolving the issue. It expressed the hope that the recent visit paid by Mr. Kofi Annan to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would lead to a resolution of the issue.

The phenomenon of extremism, violence and terrorism

The Supreme Council reiterated its categorical rejection of all forms of extremism, violence and terrorism, whatever their source or incentive, and

wherever they occur, and of the danger they represent and the threat they pose to the security, peace and stability of States, their citizens and residents. The Council affirmed the determination of its States to resist this phenomenon and to confront it by an intensification of security contacts, coordination and cooperation. At the same time, it urged all States, and, in particular, those linked to Council States by ties of friendship and mutual interest, not to harbour terrorist and extremist elements and groups, offer them political asylum or permit them to use the territory and laws of those States to carry out their terrorist activities and acts of sabotage and to alarm the peaceful and innocent. The Supreme Council renewed its call for the conclusion of an international convention to combat terrorism, affirming its conviction that the best and only way to eradicate terrorism was by means of international action agreed upon at the United Nations and guaranteeing that this international phenomenon, which claims human victims and causes material losses, would be suppressed. In this context, the Supreme Council applauded the signature of the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism at the League of Arab States in April 1998.

The re-appointment of the Secretary-General

The Supreme Council expressed its appreciation of the sterling efforts made by the Secretary-General and his effective contribution to the strengthening of the Council's performance. It decided to renew the appointment of His Excellency Sheikh Jamil Ibrahim al-Hegelan as Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council for a further three years with effect from 1 April 1999, wishing His Excellency every success in his duties during the forthcoming period.

The nomination of His Excellency Dr. Ghazi bin Abdul-Rahman Al-Qusaibi for the post of Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The Supreme Council welcomed the nomination of His Excellency Dr. Ghazi bin Abdul-Rahman Al-Qusaibi, currently Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Kingdom, for the post of Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Elections for the post will be held at the headquarters of the Organization during the one hundred and fifty-seventh session of its Executive Board in October 1999.

The Council expressed its satisfaction with regard to and welcomed the fact that Arab States, at the conference of Ministers of Education held recently in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, had announced this nomination, considering His Excellency Dr. Ghazi bin Abdul-Rahman Al-Qusaibi as standing on behalf of the Arab States. The Council expressed the hope that all friendly countries throughout the world would support this nomination.

The Supreme Council expressed its deep appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and to the Government and people of the United Arab Emirates for the warmth of their reception, their gracious hospitality and their genuinely fraternal sentiments, commending the arrangements that had been made in order to host the meeting.

The leaders of Council States praised the important role played by His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and President of the current session of the Supreme Council, in conducting the meetings, which had a major impact on bringing about the decisions and important conclusions through which the aspirations of the peoples of Council States are addressed.

The Supreme Council congratulated His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and the people of the United Arab Emirates on the occasion of their twenty-seventh National Day, wishing the United Arab Emirates every success and prosperity.

The leaders of Council States expressed the pleasure they felt at the awarding of the International Peace Prize to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman, and availed themselves of the opportunity to renew their sincere congratulations to His Majesty. The prize represents international appreciation of the value of His Majesty's wise policies and recognition of his role in serving and upholding the causes of regional and international peace.

The Supreme Council commended the genuine and sincere efforts made by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait during his presidency of the eighteenth session of the Supreme Council, and the wisdom and ability shown by His Highness in his laudable conduct of and follow-up to the proceedings.

The Supreme Council looks forward to meeting at its twentieth session, to be held, God willing, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in December 1999, at the kind invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia.

Abu Dhabi, 9 December 1998

The Abu Dhabi Declaration

Adopted at the nineteenth session of the
Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council

9 December 1998

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

The Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council,

at its nineteenth session held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, having discussed the current Arab situation in a spirit of the utmost responsibility and with a deep desire to achieve a better future for the peoples of the Arab nation,

Guided by our true religion and our tolerant Shariah, and prompted by the purposes and aims of the Charters of the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council;

Believing in the common destiny of the Arab nation and in the unbreakable bonds linking the Arab peoples;

Believing also that a better future can only be assured for the Arab nation by a firm commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charters and resolutions of the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations, with a view to avoiding the negative aspects of the past that have led to a state of fragmentation and lack of unity;

Conscious that only effective Arab solidarity based on Arab legitimacy and the Islamic faith will make it possible to protect Arab first principles, safeguard the vital interests of the Arab nation and confront the challenges of the future;

Convinced of the close linkage of national interests with those of the Arab nation and of the clear connection between the national security of Arab States and that of the Arab nation;

Affirming the purposes and principles of joint Arab action based on integrity of intentions, a commitment to legality, national sovereignty, mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs, non-recourse to threat or use of force and the use of peaceful means to resolve disputes; and affirming the mutual dependence of Arab States;

Having learned the lessons imposed by the nature of the political and economic changes in the international arena, and the current flux in international relations;

Conscious of the need to prepare joint Arab action in order to confront the challenges arising from the effect of international changes on the Arab region and to remove the negative aspects of the past;

Declares its determination to do the following:

First: Work to strengthen Arab relations in accordance with established Arab, Islamic and international principles, laws and conventions in order to enable our Arab nation to rebuild Arab solidarity;

Second: Make a sustained effort to rebuild Arab relations on a firm foundation of security, confidence and trust;

Third: Work in order to build effective Arab solidarity on the solid ground of a commitment to the principles and precepts of joint Arab action;

Fourth: Develop joint Arab action with a view to realizing the aspirations of Arab States to development, construction, security and stability, and in order to prepare the Arab region for the demands of international political and economic change and ensure the material and moral well-being of the peoples of the Arab nation.

Abu Dhabi, 20 Sha'ban A.H. 1419 (9 December A.D. 1998)

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Agenda item 46 (a)
Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Letter dated 28 December 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 25 December 1998 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, and its annex, the Baghdad Declaration of Human Rights, adopted at the Baghdad International Conference held from 8 to 10 December 1998 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 46 (a).

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Nizar **Hamdoon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-40622 (E) 050199 050199

Annex

Letter dated 25 December 1998 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, addressed to the Secretary-General

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Government and people of Iraq, believing in human rights and the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the highest shared ideal of humanity, held an international conference in Baghdad from 8 to 10 December 1998, which was attended by many Arab, foreign and Iraqi specialists in the field of human rights and international law. The declaration adopted at the conference, the Baghdad Declaration of Human Rights, affirmed the importance of the promotion and protection of human rights. It also considered the challenges faced by peoples to their enjoyment of their basic rights and the need for concerted international efforts to overcome such challenges. Among the issues considered in the Declaration were the obstacles to the Iraqi people's exercise of all their basic rights, foremost of which is the right to life and survival, and the effects on human rights of the embargo imposed on Iraq for eight years.

Those who took part in the Baghdad International Conference requested that your attention be drawn to the Declaration and expressed the hope that you would assume the role consonant with your legal and humanitarian responsibilities and help to put an end to the humanitarian tragedy to which the Iraqi people is being subjected and end the embargo that is tantamount to a true crime of genocide.

Appendix

The Baghdad Declaration of Human Rights

8 to 10 December 1998

The Baghdad International Conference,

Held in Baghdad from 8 to 10 December 1998 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling Hammurabi's code, enacted by the Iraqi people more than 3,000 years ago in order to promote justice, remove corruption, protect the weak from the oppression of the powerful, uphold women's rights and regulate the affairs of society,

Recalling with pride the values and principles of the glorious Islamic Shariah regarding equality, freedom, justice and lack of discrimination, and the guarantees it has provided for human rights for more than 14 centuries,

Recalling also the belief of the Iraqi Government and people in the principles regarding human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is an international affirmation of the rights and freedoms that should be enjoyed by every member of the human race, and which apply to every person wherever he may be,

Bearing in mind all the undertakings set forth in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights instruments, including the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Bearing in mind also the aspirations of all peoples to an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations respecting the right to equality, non-interference in internal affairs, the right to self-determination and development, the obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force and to maintain international peace and security,

Noting that the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights comes at a time when the peoples of the developing world are living in the shadow of hunger, poverty, marginalization, violence and intimidation, the violation of economic, social and cultural rights and of civil and political rights, and when the selfish interests and political and economic considerations of certain powerful States preponderate,

Affirming its repudiation of aggression, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia, unscrupulous economic practices and foreign occupation,

Considering that the eradication of poverty represents a basic and essential condition of the right to life and the enjoyment of human rights,

Recalling the importance of respect for the religious, social and cultural particularities of peoples, since they represent heritages and sources of strength that contribute to the enrichment of the universal understanding of human rights and are inconsistent with cultural alienation and the stripping of human rank from peoples and nations,

Affirming the importance of considering human rights objectively and non-selectively and of refraining from taking measures, on the pretext of protecting human rights, that do not accord with international law and constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights instruments,

Affirming also the responsibility of all States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to work jointly and

severally in order to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction and achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian nature, and affirming further that human rights and democracy cannot produce a better world in the absence of a structure of true peace and sustained economic development,

Noting that the media play an important role in the objective exposure of human rights violations, without applying political and ideological pressures, and in a manner consistent with moral principles and values,

Concerned by the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq and all the negative effects entailed thereby on social and humanitarian activities, which impede the full exercise of the rights provided for in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Noting the studies and research presented during the Conference and the discussions that have made alarmingly and distressingly clear the enormous numbers of civilian casualties caused by the sanctions that have been imposed on Iraq for more than eight years, and the fear that the number of victims will increase if the sanctions are not lifted forthwith,

Aware that the people of the world, on the threshold of the twenty-first century, are hopeful that it will be free of oppression, individual violence and tyranny,

1. *Calls upon* all States to honour their undertakings to strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and to promote and protect them at the international level, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant instruments;

2. *Affirms* that human rights in the widest and fairest sense and in all economic, social, cultural, civil and political aspects should be used to achieve international cooperation and solidarity;

3. *Affirms* the right of all peoples to self-determination, to choose their political systems and to strive to achieve economic, social and cultural development in complete freedom;

4. *Affirms* that the universality of human rights should not be used as a pretext for intervention in the internal affairs of States or to diminish their national sovereignty; the importance of a commitment from the international community to consider human rights objectively and without selectivity or discrimination, and of endeavouring to find a global system that shows compassion for the weak and guarantees human rights and development for all;

5. *Calls upon* States to refrain from taking or implementing any measures of a coercive nature that have dangerous implications for civilians and obstruct complete enjoyment of the rights provided for in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the other relevant international instruments;

6. *Rejects* the use of such measures as a means of applying political or economic pressure on any country, and on developing countries in particular, in view of their negative effects on human rights;

7. *Expresses* its extreme concern with regard to the terrible and continuing loss of civilian life in Iraq because of the dangerous lack of medicine and food caused by the embargo attested to in the reports of the relevant international agencies and organizations;

8. *Affirms* that the economic measures imposed on Iraq include depriving the whole Iraqi people of its means of subsistence and of its right to life, and violate the international norms relating to human rights in a manner that amounts to genocide;

9. *Demands* that the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom abandon their insistence on continuing to impose the sanctions for their own political considerations, indifferent to the attendant humanitarian consequences, which conflict with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the other international instruments;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to demonstrate genuine concern with regard to the serious repercussions of the embargo on the people of Iraq, and put an end to the enormous and continual loss of civilian life;

11. *Requests* the Security Council to honour its undertaking to lift the embargo once Iraq has complied with its obligations pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions, since the embargo imposed on Iraq has a serious effect on the enjoyment of all the rights provided for in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the relevant international instruments;

12. *Strongly condemns* the continued intervention of the United States and the United Kingdom in the internal affairs of Iraq, their imposition of "no-fly" zones, their announcement that sums of money would be allocated to operations designed to undermine the national and territorial integrity of Iraq, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international conventions, in particular as regards the right to self-determination, respect for sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States;

13. *Condemns* the policy of the United States administration of intervening in the internal affairs of States, threatening their territorial integrity, imposing unilateral sanctions and practising State terrorism such as the destruction of the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical factory in the Sudan;

14. *Urges* all peoples, Governments, parliaments, international humanitarian organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals to work towards having the embargo lifted and ending the humanitarian tragedy to which the Iraqi people is being exposed, and in embodiment of the lofty principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.